

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP03/01731 filed February 20, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 17-30 are currently pending in the instant application.

The Specification has been amended to delete the original section headings and to insert the preferred section headings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.77. A new Title of the Invention has been inserted. An Abstract of the Disclosure, in accordance with the disclosure, has been added. It is submitted that the amendments to the Specification made herein introduce no new matter. A separate page containing a clean copy of the Abstract of the Disclosure has been attached for the Examiner's convenience. New paragraphs and Section Headings have been added in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(i) & (iii), and paragraph deletions indicated in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(i) & (iv). Entry of the amendments to the Specification made herein are therefore proper and respectfully requested.

Original claims 1-16 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 17-30 solely for the purposes of improving clarity and grammar, which may suffer in translation, and in order to remove multiple dependencies, and not for any reason which relates to the statutory requirements for a patent. New claims 17-30 have not been added in response to any rejection, nor in anticipation of any rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of new claims 17-30 generally corresponds to the scope of original claims 1-16, and that new claims 17-30 are no narrower than original claims 1-16. Furthermore, although a moot point in view of their cancellation, Applicants respectfully submit that original claims 1-16 satisfied the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, as filed. New claims 17-30 are supported by the claims as originally filed and in the Specification, for example, at page 3, lines 1-28; at page 5, line 8 through page 7, line 19; and in the Examples. No new matter has been introduced. A complete listing of all claims ever presented is included herein in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c). Entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested.

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Prompt examination of the instant application in view of the amendments
made herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)


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